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Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT :—"May I know from the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise whether the answer to this question is based on information got from the district or on some information already in the Secretariat ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—"The answer is based on the information which we got from the district officer."

Compensation to losses incurred by toddy contractors.

*136 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have given any undertaking that in respect of losses incurred by contractors of toddy shops on account of picketing the Government would compensate the contractors ;

(b) whether several Revenue Divisional Officers at the time of the auction of toddy shops undertook to pay such compensation ;

(c) what is the extent of compensation which they have agreed to pay ;

(d) why the Government have considered it necessary to compensate the toddy contractors against loss due to picketing ;

(e) whether they have taken any legal opinion that they would be liable to pay such compensation and if not, why not ; and

(f) whether the Government have been still continuing the temperance propaganda and how the Government propose to distinguish between cases where the loss was due to their own propaganda or to the picketing by volunteers ?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government authorized Collectors of districts to announce at the time of the auction sales of toddy shops for the lease of 1930-31 that applications from renters for remission of rentals on account of any serious loss sustained by them owing to causes over which the renters had no control would be considered sympathetically. The Government empowered the Commissioner of Excise to grant remissions to the renters of arrack and toddy shops in case their sales were affected by the civil disobedience movement.

(c) The amount of remission will depend on the merits of each case.

(d) The Government considered that it was equitable that abkari renters should be granted remission of rentals if they suffered loss owing to causes beyond their control.

(e) No. There was no need to take legal opinion in the matter.

(f) Yes The question whether any particular loss is due to the temperance propaganda or to picketing will be investigated by the local officers.

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—"May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government have authorized the Collectors *suo motu* to make the announcement mentioned in clauses (a) and (b) of the answer, or was it done at the instance of the Collectors ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—"It was done at the instance of the Commissioner, Sir."

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" May I know whether the Commissioner moved in the matter on account of any representation from the Collectors or whether he himself took the initiative ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" I cannot say that now."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I know, Sir, whether there has been any loss suffered by the contractors or renters on account of the effect of the temperance propaganda, and if so, whether the loss on this account is also to be compensated ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" No, Sir. The idea is to find out as far as it is possible whether any loss that has been occasioned is due to the civil disobedience movement or other causes. If it is only due to the civil disobedience movement, it is proposed to give compensation."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I ask whether there is any difference in the loss as such incurred by the contractors whether due to the operation of the propaganda movement or due to voluntary persuasion by picketers of people not to get into the arrack and toddy shops ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" The answer to that must be obvious to a lawyer like him. One is loss occasioned by a movement which is in defiance of the law and the other is not so."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" Is there any difference in the incidence of the loss to the contractors ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" The consequence of the propaganda movement the contractors could have foreseen, but the result of the civil disobedience movement they could not have foreseen."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" Have the Government issued any instructions to their subordinates to differentiate between these two causes, and if so, will the Government be pleased to place such instructions on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" The printed answer makes it quite clear that the Government have empowered the Commissioner to grant remissions in cases where the sales have been affected as a result of the civil disobedience movement."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" Sir, my question remains unanswered. I asked whether there is any difference in the incidence of the loss occasioned by the civil disobedience movement and the loss incurred by the contractors by the operation of the temperance propaganda ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" There is any amount of difference. I have already explained it."

Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu :—" Is there any specific provision in the Act to give such remission ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" There is no such provision. I do not think any such provision is required to enable the Government to grant compensation."

Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu :—" Am I to understand that the Government consider it an extraordinary situation ? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Certainly . . . "

(As Mr. Simhachalam had not resumed his seat after putting the supplementary question, the hon. the President said: The hon. Mr. Simhachalam will please sit down to obtain the answer.)

The hon Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Certainly, the civil disobedience movement is a very extraordinary movement."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" It is stated in the answer that the question whether any particular loss is due to the temperance propaganda or to picketing will be investigated by the local officers. Is the intention of the Government to give compensation for possible loss incurred by the effect of temperance propaganda ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I do not think that is the idea of the Government."

Diwan Bahadur R N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" But it is so stated in the answer to clause (*a*)."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" The object of this question, I take it, is to know whether the Government would go further and give any compensation in cases where the loss is due to temperance propaganda. In reply to that, I may say that the Government's present intention is to give no compensation where the loss is due to temperance propaganda."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" But it is stated here that it will be investigated. Where is the necessity for investigating it ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It has to be investigated because compensation can be given only in cases where the loss is due to picketing. To find that out, it is necessary to investigate."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I take it that the Government have no intention of discontinuing the temperance propaganda ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR : —" No such idea at present."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" Does not the Government realize that such an announcement offering remission would tend to reduce the bid amounts ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" That is a matter purely of opinion."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if the bids have been affected by the civil disobedience movement ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" They have been affected."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" If therefore the movement is withdrawn and if that results in increased profits to the renters, will the Government get an extra share from the renters ? " (Laughter.)

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"May I ask whether this order or announcement will not be taken undue advantage of by the renters and whether remission applications will not be coming in large numbers?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"That again is a hypothetical question."

Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I ask whether two renters from the Bellary district have sent up memorials for remission on account of the civil disobedience movement?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"Those memorials are not before the Government; they are probably before the Commissioner."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"Have the Government any idea of the possible loss in excise revenue during the year owing either to propaganda or to the civil disobedience movement?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"It is possibly somewhere between Rs. 50 and 60 lakhs."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"With reference to the answer to clause (f) of this question, may I ask what means they are going to adopt to find out whether the loss is due to picketing or otherwise? Are they going to ask the Collectors and Police Superintendents?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"It is a very large question to answer, what procedure will be adopted by district officials to find this out. The procedure will vary with the various officers. The same procedure will not probably be adopted by all of them. Therefore it is impossible to give a general answer to the question."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know if the hon. Minister will be able to tell us some of the methods which he can himself visualise?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"I do not think I can answer that question."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"Was it the idea of the Government that the propaganda movement would not be successful and that is why they never thought of the question of compensating the renters?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"It is not due to that reason"

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar :—"Is the hon. Minister aware, Sir, that the subtle distinction made between the loss due to the civil disobedience movement and the loss due to temperance propaganda is likely to be abused by the local officers?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"I do not think so."

Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar :—"Are the renters to be compensated for any loss they may incur?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"Yes, if the loss is due to the civil disobedience movement."

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I ask how the Government are going to assess the loss? The Government can have no information about the toddy sales in the shops."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"We know the rentals that have been realized by the shopkeepers."

Agriculture

Experiment of growing short-term crop for the production of sugarcane seed.

* 137 Q.—Mr. A. Harischandrudu : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the progress made in the establishment of the system of growing short-term crop for the production of sugarcane seed ; and

(b) in which farm or farms this experiment has been started ?

A.—(a) Instructions have been issued by the Director of Agriculture to all Deputy Directors to establish this practice wherever sugarcane is grown. At the Agricultural Research Station, Anakapalle, 2·15 acres have been raised with short crop cane for seed. In the Vizagapatam district 6 acres are under short crop cane.

(b) At the Agricultural Research Station, Anakapalle.

Public Works

Shifting of the Superintending Engineer's office from Bellary to Madras.

* 138 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what the reasons were for shifting the Superintending Engineer's office from Bellary to Madras ; and

(b) whether the Government propose to retransfer his office to Bellary ?

A.—(a) The III circle of superintendence with headquarters at Bellary was abolished in 1923 as a measure of retrenchment and the divisions of the circle were attached to the Madras Circle (headquarters—Madras).

(b) The question of reviving the circle with headquarters at Bellary has been under consideration, but it is not proposed to make the alteration during the present financial stringency.

Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I ask, Sir, whether the division is not too unwieldy to be managed by an Engineer with headquarters at Madras?"

The hon. Mr P. T. Rajan :—"As stated in the answer to clause (b), the question of reviving the circle with headquarters at Bellary has been under consideration, but it is not proposed to make the alteration during the present financial stringency."